



# NURSE

Operating Theatre Nurse - Scrub

Countries: AFGHANISTAN, SIERRA LEONE, SUDAN

Projects: Anabah (AFG), Kabul (AFG), Lashkar-gah (AFG), Goderich (SL), SalamCentre for Cardiac Surgery - Khartoum (SUD)

Type of contract: paid - 6 months

Language required: English

This role requires complete and autonomous management of the technical and operational, patient care and organisational tasks of the Operating Theatre department.

## BACKGROUND AND ORGANISATION OF WORK

The International Operating Theatre Nurse supervises, teaches and works alongside the national staff colleagues carrying out the various nursing tasks and roles in the operating theatre (scrub nurse, running nurse) and in areas auxiliary to surgical activity (sterilisation services).

The international OT nurse is responsible to the Medical Coordinator, who is in charge of the management and organisation of the project.

The areas in which you may be required to work:

### STERILISATION;

OPERATING THEATRES: 2-3 operating theatres for General Surgery, Orthopaedic Trauma Surgery, or Cardiac Surgery depending on the admissions criteria of the Centre.

The workload and rota are variable, depending on the needs and organisational set-up of the hospital; you will usually have at least one day off a week, with on-call 24/7 in case of surgical emergency.

The international OT Nurse organises the work of the national staff in his/her area of responsibility, together with the Medical Coordinator of the project.

## DUTIES AND REponsibilities

All EMERGENCY international personnel are expected to know and follow the hospital admissions criteria, guide lines, protocols, and the diagnosis and treatment standards in use in the Centre, and to ensure the correct compilation of clinical records and statistics in both computer and paper formats.

The main duties and responsibilities of the international OT nurse - scrub:

Management and supervision of sterilisation services;

Preparation of the theatre for operations and organisation of the work of the national team in theatre;

Direct participation in surgical procedures;

To assist with clinical research and record keeping as required by the scientific programmes of the specialist sector of the Medical Division of EMERGENCY.

## **STERILISATION SERVICES**

Each Centre is equipped to carry out the following procedures:

Steam sterilisation via autoclave, including very basic models;

Chemical sterilisation using formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde...;

Quality control of the sterilisation processes in use, via the appropriate tests (Bowie-Dick, biological and chemical tests).

## **MANAGEMENT AND ORDERS OF STOCKS AND SUPPLIES**

The international OT nurse is responsible for checking that levels of supplies of materials and equipment are always adequate in terms of quantity and quality, and for informing the team leader (where present) or Medical Coordinator of any requirements.

## **MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING OF LOCAL PERSONNEL**

Clinical activities and patient care are always carried out alongside and in collaboration with local personnel, who thus benefit from training in the field. There is also provision for more specific teaching activities, managed by the international specialists, in accordance with the individual needs of each hospital. As there is a high turnover of national nursing staff, there will be a particular need to provide training to these personnel during this mission.

## **CASELOAD AND EQUIPMENT**

The technological level of the equipment present in the Centres is suited to the clinical and managerial protocols in use, and the level of professional autonomy of the national staff, with the aim of achieving - and sustaining - high standards of care. Diagnostic equipment, basic laboratory tests, technical and auxiliary services are always available.

### **SURGICAL AND MEDICAL CENTRE - Anabah, Afghanistan**

Opened in 1999 as a centre for the treatment of war injuries, in 2003 the admissions criteria were extended to include Emergency Medicine and Maternity (Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Neonatology).

The emergency and elective surgical interventions most frequently carried out are for urological (kidney stones) and gastrointestinal (cholecystitis) disturbances, and hernias.

The Centre is the referral point for a web of First Aid Posts (FAPs) and health centres for both basic and specialist care.

### **SURGICAL CENTRE - Kabul, Afghanistan**

The Surgical Centre in Kabul is today the most important centre for war surgery in the country. The Intensive Care Unit has 6 beds with monitoring systems and ventilators.

CT scanning equipment is available. Both paediatric and adult patients are treated. Around 30% of patients are under 14 years of age, and present with bullet injuries, shrapnel, landmine injuries, stab wounds and burns (where resulting from war injury).

### **SURGICAL CENTRE - Lashkar-gah, Afghanistan**

This is the only specialist war surgery centre in the region. The Intensive Care Unit has six beds with monitoring equipment. The admissions criteria and therefore the caseload are similar to those in Kabul, but with a higher prevalence of paediatric patients.

## **SURGICAL AND PAEDIATRIC CENTRE - Goderich, Sierra Leone**

Every day over 130 patients are treated at the Surgical and Paediatric Centre in Goderich. Over time the admissions criteria have been broadened in response to the needs of the population: today they include traumatology, emergency and (emergencies permitting) elective surgery. In 2012 an 8-bed Intensive Care Unit, guest quarters for relatives accompanying patients living far away from the Centre, and two new operating theatres were opened.

## **"SALAM" CENTRE FOR CARDIAC SURGERY - Khartoum, Sudan**

Since 2007 the Salam Centre has been the only completely free Cardiac Surgery centre in the region. The Centre forms the scientific and operational nucleus of a web of paediatric clinics situated in neighbouring countries which also carry out screening and follow-up for both adult and paediatric cardiac surgery patients.

The most common pathologies treated are valvular cardiopathy of rheumatic origin (RHD - Rheumatic Heart Disease), congenital heart disease suitable for surgical treatment, and ischaemic heart disease in the non-acute phase; over the past five years of activity (2008 - 2012) around 55% of patients admitted have been under 25 years of age.

Due to the advanced level of work carried out, the equipment available and technical, architectural and managerial innovations, the Salam Centre for Cardiac Surgery is considered a centre of excellence at an international level.

## **GUIDELINES, PROTOCOLS AND EQUIPMENT**

Further information on the guidelines, protocols and clinical services relevant to the post along with details of the instruments and equipment available will be provided at interview and during the period of preparation for the mission.

The general requirements and conditions are the same as for other international personnel roles.

## **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

Nursing Degree (or equivalent Diploma) and current registration on the professional nursing register of your country of residence;

At least 3 years' continuous professional experience in one or more of the following specialist theatre areas: Emergency Surgery, Orthopaedics and Trauma Surgery, Cardiac Surgery (including paediatric).

## **REQUIRED AVAILABILITY**

6 months' overseas stay including a period of leave to be taken at the end of the mission in agreement with the coordinator.

## **TO APPLY**

If you are interested in working with EMERGENCY in a medical capacity and you fulfil the general and specific requirements set out on the website please send your CV and cover letter (specifying in the subject which position you are applying for) to:

**[RECRUITMENT@EMERGENCYUK.ORG](mailto:RECRUITMENT@EMERGENCYUK.ORG)**

During the selection process you will be evaluated on the basis of your CV, cover letter questionnaire, references and individual interview